

SECRET

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D. C. 20505

24 May 1983

The Honorable Edward P. Boland
Chairman, Permanent Select
Committee on Intelligence
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to learn that you have expressed to your Committee in no uncertain terms your disapproval of disclosures of matters discussed in closed sessions which the press has attributed to members of the Committee.

There is a matter which I wish to pursue personally with each member of the Committee and that is the allegation by The New York Times of 18 May 1983, attributed to a member of the House Committee, that "the CIA lies to us anyway." While I do have less than complete confidence in the accuracy of press reporting, that comment has offended our entire organization and impugns the integrity of our fine employees. In obligation to them I feel that I must pursue its accuracy. As the Chairman is well aware, we have worked assiduously to keep the oversight Committees fully informed [redacted]

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[redacted] A quick count reveals that since December 1981 the two Oversight Committees and their staffs have received 11 full Committee briefings and 6 staff briefings [redacted]

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[redacted] That is not to mention an additional 5 staff reviews of intelligence reporting of Nicaraguan exile activity along the Honduran border and in Nicaragua. During the course of these occasions our officers have responded to any and all questions and have provided supplemental details as requested. The members of the Committees have been urged to visit the area [redacted]

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The possibility that any Committee member harbors the thought that CIA lies to the Committee is so appalling that I feel obliged to determine if any member of the Committee actually feels that way and if so to seek the particulars. The confidence between the Agency and the Committee essential to make the oversight process work requires that any such impression be addressed. I therefore ask your indulgence in taking the liberty of writing members of the Committee to inquire if they made or know of any such statement from a Committee member.

Sincerely,

William J. Casey

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